

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11, and 20 through 29 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended. New claims 21-29 have been added.

The specification and claims have been amended to place the application in better form, and to further highlight and more clearly point out the important features of the invention. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

New claim 23 is a combination of claims 1 and 6. The Office Action indicates that such a combination would be allowable. It is applicant's position that new claim 23 is therefore allowable.

New claim 24 is a combination of claims 12 and 17. The Office Action indicates that such a combination would be allowable. It is applicant's position that new claim 24 is therefore allowable.

The specification has been amended to further describe the feature of the fastening element clinging to the chamber inner wall. In the original priority document, which is incorporated by reference, the German term "verkrallen", or its variation "verkrallt" was used. This was originally translated as the English term "to cling" or "clinging". A better translation of this term would be "to dig" or "digging". Applicant is including an extract of a German English dictionary showing that this better translation is commonly accepted. Since the original German priority document is incorporated by reference, this present change to the specification is not new matter.

The original independent claims have been rejected as being anticipated by Scholz '267.

New claim 25 sets forth that the fastening element has an outer circumference arranged axially inward of the axial ends of the generator chamber. The outer circumference is further set forth as being biased against the inner wall of the generator chamber. A preferred embodiment of this is shown in the drawings where it is clear that the outer circumference of the fastening element 3 is arranged axially inward of the ends of the generator chamber 2. Applicant has reviewed Scholz and finds no teaching nor suggestion of this feature.

In particular applicant finds no outer circumference of a fastening element in Scholz that is both arranged axially inward of ends of a generator chamber, and is also biased against an inner wall of the chamber. From the disclosure of Scholz, it is unclear whether any portion of element 14 is biased against an inner wall of element 12. Even if a portion of element 14 is biased against an inner wall of element 12, that portion is clearly not spaced from an axial end of element 12. Furthermore, any portion of element 14 that is actually spaced from an end of element 12, is not biased against an inner wall of element 12. Therefore elements 14 and 12 of Scholz do not have all of the features of the fastening element and the generator chamber of claim 25. Claim 25 therefore cannot be anticipated by Scholz.

Claim 1 has been amended to further emphasize the feature that the generator chamber is longer than the gas generator. In particular claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the generator chamber axially overlaps the gas generator. This is clearly shown in the embodiments of the drawings. As described above, this feature is not present in Scholz. Therefore claim 1 cannot be fully anticipated by Scholz.

Claim 1 and claim 26 set forth that the outer circumference of the fastening element digs into the inner wall of the generator chamber. In the preferred embodiment, this is caused by the biasing force created when the fastening element is deformed as it is inserted into the generator chamber. The biasing force causes the outer circumference of the fastening element to be pushed into the inner wall of the generating chamber. It is also preferable that the outer circumference of the fastening element be shaped, usually sharpened, to facilitate the biasing force digging it into the wall. This feature is not taught nor suggested in Scholz. Therefore claims 1 and 26 further define over the rejection.

Claim 21 further emphasizes the digging feature by specifically indicating that it is the radial outer edge of the fastening element that digs into the inner wall of the generator chamber. Any radial outer edge in Scholz is clearly spaced far away from an inner wall of a generating chamber. Therefore claim 21 further defines over Scholz.

Claim 26 also further emphasizes the digging feature. Since Scholz does not describe any digging feature, Scholz cannot further anticipate the features of claim 26.

Claims 22 and 27 set forth that the fastening element is completely arranged within the generator chamber. In Scholz, element 14 is clearly not completely arranged within element 12. Therefore elements 14 and 12 of Scholz do not have all the features of the fastening element and generator chamber of claims 22 and 27. These claims therefore further define over the rejection.

Claims 28 and 29 set forth that the fastening element is shaped so that the biasing force against the inner wall of the generating chamber increases as the gas generator is axially moved.

Support for this can be found in the specification in paragraph 23. This is beneficial because when the gas generator discharges, large forces are created. With the present invention, instead of these large forces causing the gas generator to tend to become loose, these large forces actually increase the fastening ability. Claims 28 and 29 therefore further define over the prior art.

The applied prior art, especially Scholz and Jenkins, take a much different approach with regard to fastening a gas generator. Scholz discloses an assembly consisting of an inflator 10, a housing 12 and two retainers 14. The inflator 10 has a longitudinal center line L and a shell forming a circumferential surface area 16. The inflator 10 has a first end 18 and a second end 20, each of which is closed off by an end face 22. The shell of the inflator 10 protrudes by its ends 18 and 20 beyond the end face 22, and forms a rim 24 in each case. The two retainers 14 are configured mirror-inverse and close off the housing 12 at the end faces. As can be gathered from figure 1 in Scholz, the radial outer edge of each retainer 14 is arranged outside the housing 12. In particular the radial outer edge of each retainer 14 does not engage the inner wall of the housing 12.

Jenkins discloses an airbag module including a housing 12, an airbag 14, and an inflator 16. A pair of wave springs 20, 22 are mounted on opposite end walls 40, 42 of the housing 12. The springs 20, 22 engage opposite end portions 132, 134 of the inflator 16 to secure the inflator to the housing 12. As can be gathered from figure 2, the springs 20, 22 are arranged outside the housing 12. In particular the circular outer periphery 150 of the spring members 20, 22 is free and does not engage the housing 12.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative by telephone.

At this time applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



By: _____
Theobald Dengler
Registration No. 34,575
McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

TD:tf

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Attached: copy of German English Dictionary Extract Pages

DATED: February 10, 2009
BOX 9227 SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-9227
(914) 941-5600

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